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SUBJECT: PART II: CZECH COMMENTS ON FURTHERING U.S.-CZECH
STRATEGIC COOPERATION

REF: A. CARNIE-QUANRUD E-MAIL DATED 10.9.09
[1](#)B. WILSON-CONDRAE E-MAIL DATED 10.6.09
[1](#)C. PRAGUE 589
[1](#)D. CARNIE-QUANRUD E-MAIL DATED 10.1.09

Classified By: Charge Mary Thompson-Jones for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: Czech MFA Political Director Ivo Sramek, accompanied by MFA Security Policy Director Ivan Pocuch and MOD Director of Strategic and Defense Planning Division Ivan Dvorak provided emboffs on October 9 with two papers: "Specific Ideas for Further Strategic Cooperation between the Czech Republic and the United States" and a second paper from MOD with the same title, but on "Defense Related Issues." Sramek highlighted that the Czechs would like to discuss many of these issues in the first paper with Vice President Biden and at the Strategic Dialogue (once it is scheduled), while they would like to cover the second paper at the High Level Defense Group. End Summary.

Papers Are Not Meant as an Exhaustive List

[1](#)2. (SBU) Sramek noted that these papers are meant as complements to the original paper the Czechs handed over on September 25 ("Food for Thought") and September 17 ("The Way Forward in Strategic Cooperation"). He noted that the approach in the first of these two papers today was in keeping with the Kohout-S dialogue in New York, where the Secretary and Kohout agreed to "think broadly" about cooperation, while the second paper was designed to layout substantive details in the defense area that could be the basis of discussions at the High Level Defense Group (HLDG). Sramek also flagged for emboffs that the Czechs would like to discuss the ideas outlined in the "Furthering Strategic Cooperation" paper with Vice President Biden during his visit later this month.

[1](#)3. (SBU) PolDir Sramek highlighted that the Czechs do not see this as an "exhaustive list," but rather as an opportunity for dialogue on a range of subjects of interest to both of our countries. Speaking of matters aside from the defense cooperation, which he left to Dvorak to cover, Sramek particularly noted Czech interest in discussing cooperation in Afghanistan (maximizing the effectiveness of the PRTs as well as common training of the ANSF), energy security (perhaps formalizing cooperation between Ambassadors-at-large), the Eastern Partnership and Balkans' Euro-Atlantic integration.

Defense Related Issues in Lead up to Biden Visit and HLDG

[1](#)4. (C) Dvorak highlighted a number of aspects in the MoD paper he provided emboffs, which the Czechs have classified

as restricted. He referenced the Czechs continued interest in acquiring C-130s and noted that Minister of Defense Bartak has written to Secretary Gates about this. With respect to deployments in Afghanistan, Dvorak noted the continued interest in US support through both lift and sustain efforts and close cooperation in the ground. He went on to reiterate Czech interest in progress on the proposed sale of L-159s to the Afghan National Air Force. He also referenced CBRN collaboration, particularly in the biological research and defense area.

15. (C) An idea that Dvorak also flagged, new to post, is Czech interest in developing ground based air defense and mobile air defense radars. While Dvorak was clear that the Czech Republic is committed to the NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) program, he noted that the Czechs just do not have the funding to cover their portion of the program currently. The Czechs seek to defer payments and requested USG support at this time.

Upcoming Strategic Dialogue

16. (SBU) Sramek noted that in addition to discussing some of the issues in the "Furthering Strategic Cooperation" paper with Vice President Biden, the Czechs would also like to use this paper as a basis for discuss at the Strategic Dialogue. The Czechs prefer to host this dialogue in Prague and commented on the timing that "we don't need to rush," but want to hold this before the end of the year.

NATO Strategic Concept

17. (SBU) Both MFA and MoD officials flagged Czech interest in participation within the Group of Experts working on the new NATO Strategic Concept. They also noted that while a number of seminars have been planned already, the Czechs are willing and interested in hosting a final seminar, perhaps in the spring, that would be all encompassing - pulling together the issues and ideas covered in the earlier sessions. Sramek believes that Czech Ambassador to the U.S. Petr Kolar and Ambassador to NATO Martin Povejsil have been engaging key interlocutors, but expressed interest in USG comments as to whether we think such a seminar would be viable.

Dvorak Raises Declaration of Intent and Bartak Interest in Meeting Gates

18. (C) Ivan Dvorak brought up two specific issues that were not covered in the papers. The first issue was the NATO HIP helicopter "declaration of intent." Ivan Dvorak followed up on a conversation DAO Colonel Wilson had with Milan Dvorak on October 5, which was subsequently communicated by Wilson to Mike Condray and others. The Czechs requested USG support on the NATO HIP helo initiative and they would particularly like Secretary Gates to sign the declaration of intent at the October 22-23 NATO Ministerial in Bratislava. Dvorak reiterated that the document is not legally binding and created no resource obligations, but that U.S. support would help the project.

19. (C) Second, Dvorak raised the issue of an invitation for Secretary Gates to visit Prague on the margins of the Bratislava Ministerial, and/or a bilat at the Ministerial itself. This invite was buried in the thank you letter post forwarded last week. A formal answer, one way or another, would be most helpful.

Participants at Biden Meetings

110. (SBU) PolDir Ivo Sramek noted that at the meeting between Prime Minister Fischer and Vice President Biden, the Czechs are planning to involve Foreign Minister Kohout as well as Minister of Education Matesova. PM Fischer has asked

Minister Matesova to join because the Czechs are particularly interested in discussing cooperation with us in the areas of research and training. Dvorak commented that it is unlikely that Minister of Defense Bartak will join if the Vice President is in Prague on October 23, as Bartak will be at the NATO Defense Ministerial. The Czechs also inquired whether there would be a senior DoD/Joint Staff representative traveling with Vice President Biden on this visit.

Thompson-Jones